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## JAMES J. JEFFRIES' MOST IMPORTANT FIGHTS.

James J. Jeffries was born in 1875, in Carroll, O., the son of an impecunious preacher. At an early age he removed to Los Angeles, Cal., where he received some schooling before he started out to make his living as a hollermaker. The strenuous work required by his trade developed his physical strength to an unusual degree and thus prepared him for his later career in the prize ring. His first pugilistic experience was not obtained in the ring, however, but on the public street. It was an unsentimental fist fight between Jeffries and the colored ward bully, who had made himself obnoxious, and the battle ended with Jeffries' victory.

Jeffries' first regular ring fight was against Tim Van Buskirk, whom he finished by a knock-out in the second round. The result of the fight was particularly pleasing to Jeffries, as Van Buskirk was considered the heavyweight champion of the Pacific coast.

The young hollermaker's next experience in the ring was a little harder. His opponent was Henry Baker of Chicago, who kept Jeffries hustling for nine rounds, but finally succumbed to the giant Californian. These experiences convinced Jeffries that he could fight, and he determined to go into the game for all it was worth.

He tackled Gus Ruhlin, the fight ending in a draw. Soon afterward he went after Joe Choyinski, then in his prime and at the highest notch of his fighting skill. This contest also ended in a draw.

When James Corbett was training at Carson City, Jeffries was his sparring partner for a time and many are of the opinion that Jeffries learned a great deal of the science of boxing from his sparring opponent. Jeffries, however, has always denied this.

Jeffries was ambitious and eager for a fight with Tom Sharkey and at last the match was arranged. But the authorities stepped in and the contest was called off. Jeffries never lost sight of "Sailor" Sharkey and eventually he met him in the ring. In the meantime Jeffries went to Los Angeles and took on Joe Goddard, the

Barrier champion, who proved easy money. Jeffries won in four rounds. This was on February 28, 1898. It was in the same year that Jeffries by a succession of victorious fights came into prominence as a fighter.

In March and April he met and defeated Peter Jackson and Pete Everett and in May his fight with Sharkey took place. Jeffries won after twenty hard rounds, and his fame was made. San Francisco and the west coast were too small for the big hollermaker and he decided to go to New York. Accompanied by "Billy" Delaney, his manager, Jeffries set out for the east. He was well received and soon became popular, but there were no fights to be had. Negotiations with Peter Maher were carried on for some time, but struck a snag in some technicality. It was then that Jeffries, somewhat desperate, offered to take on any two men the same night at the Lenox Athletic Club. "Bob" Armstrong was the first opponent. Jeffries fought the stipulated ten rounds and whipped the big colored man, but hurt his hand so severely that he had to abandon the second fight which was to be against Steve O'Donnell.

After this experience Jeffries returned to California, but the following year found him back in New York with William T. Brady as his manager. June 9 of that year, 1899, saw him in the ring at Coney Island, facing Robert Fitzsimmons, champion of the world. In the eleventh round Jeffries got in his knockout blow and the championship was his.

Contrary to precedent, the new champion did not rest long on his laurels. Although he did not fight again that summer, November found him matched with "Sailor" Sharkey again. The fight lasted twenty-five rounds and was won by Jeffries.

On April 6, 1900, Jeffries found easy money in Jack Finnegan at Detroit. He knocked him out in the first round. The champion's next big battle was with Jim Corbett at Coney Island. Corbett lasted twenty-three rounds, but was finally knocked out. Then Jeffries returned to California. He

**JEFFRIES' MOST IMPORTANT FIGHTS.**

April 9, 1897—T. Van Buskirk, knockout; San Francisco; 2 rounds.

May 19, 1897—Henry Baker, knockout; San Francisco; 2 rounds.

July 17, 1897—Gus Ruhlin, draw; San Francisco; 20 rounds.

November 30, 1897—Joe Choyinski, draw; San Francisco; 20 rounds.

February 28, 1898—Joe Goddard, won; Los Angeles; 4 rounds.

March 22, 1898—Peter Jackson, won; San Francisco; 3 rounds.

April 22, 1898—Pete Everett, won; San Francisco; 3 rounds.

May 6, 1898—Tom Sharkey, won; San Francisco; 20 rounds.

August 5, 1898—Bob Armstrong, won; New York; 10 rounds.

June 9, 1899—Bob Fitzsimmons, knockout; Coney Island; 11 rounds.

November 3, 1899—Tom Sharkey, won; Coney Island; 25 rounds.

May 11, 1900—Jim Corbett, knockout; Coney Island; 23 rounds.

September 17, 1901—Hank Griffin, won; Los Angeles; 4 rounds.

November 15, 1901—Gus Ruhlin, knockout; San Francisco; 5 rounds.

July 25, 1902—Bob Fitzsimmons, knockout; San Francisco; 8 rounds.

August 14, 1903—Jim Corbett, knockout; San Francisco; 10 rounds.

August 26, 1904—Jack Munroe, knockout; San Francisco; 2 rounds.

had three fights the next year. He won from Hank Griffin at Los Angeles in four rounds and a week later knocked out Joe Kennedy in two. In November he fought Gus Ruhlin in San Francisco and finished him in five rounds. His next big fight was July 25, 1902, when he fought a return match with Bob Fitzsimmons and knocked him out after eight severely contested rounds. In August of the following year he fought Jim Corbett again at San Francisco and knocked him out in ten rounds. His last fight previous to the present was in August, 1904, when he knocked out Jack Monroe in the second round at San Francisco.

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## COACHED AT A COURTING

By HARRY VAN AMBERG

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It was an afternoon in August. I was sitting on the Polands' piazza overlooking the ocean. Mrs. Poland was lounging beside me in a wicker chair. She is a good friend of mine. Mrs. Poland, although her husband and I were chums before they were married. She has never been at all jealous of me—something unusual in such cases. She invites me to her cottage every summer and is good enough to say that she would not consider a party complete without me.

I tell her I'm never complete without a party.

Mrs. Poland has a hobby. It is matchmaking. She tried to match me several times and always failed. The reason, she said, was that I did not understand women.

"I have a girl for you," she said.

"I thought you had given me up."

"I have so far as your management is concerned. This time I wish you to leave your part of the affair to me."

"Now you're getting down to something practical. Who is the lady?"

"She comes tomorrow—Miss Annabel Vail. She is pretty, intelligent, stylish and has some means of her own, though not much."

"Very well. So long as you keep me instructed I'll do anything you like. But be it understood that I'm to have no headwork to do on my own account. You understand?"

"Perfectly."

Miss Vail arrived as expected. She was all Mrs. Poland had claimed for her. On the afternoon of her arrival Mrs. Poland informed me that she expected me to drive with her guest. The carriage would be at the door at 4 o'clock. I told her I would be charmed to drive with Miss Vail if she thought the young lady could endure me without other company. We drove two hours and returned in time to dress for dinner. During the evening Mrs. Poland asked me how I liked Miss Vail, and I told her I had been much pleased.

"I doubt it," she said. "A man who is much pleased with a woman can find plenty to say to her. Miss Vail has told me that you didn't say anything but 'Yes' and 'No.'"

"I was always a good listener."

A sailing party was arranged for a day's outing on the water in Poland's yacht. Mrs. Poland instructed me before starting to devote myself almost exclusively to Miss Vail. My motto was "obey orders if you break owners." Miss Vail was very seasick, and I escorted her to the side of the vessel and held her head. She motioned me away, but I clung to the job. Then, when she sank back into a reclining chair, considering that she was ill I concluded that I must do all the talking myself. I talked till she told me if I would only go away and let her alone she would feel much relieved.

Mrs. Poland that evening told me very impatiently that I didn't know how to make myself agreeable to a girl, but it was impossible for any one to teach me.

"Haven't I done all you have told me to do?" I asked, very much crestfallen. "Goodness gracious, do you expect your coach to follow you about to tell you when to talk and when to keep silent? Must you be worked like the figures in a Punch and Judy show?"

"From what you say Miss Vail has not been especially impressed with me."

"I wouldn't say so, except that it is all up with your suit, but she says you're the most aggravating man she ever met."

"Can't we wipe off the slate and begin all over?"

"You'd be the same!"

"Idiot?"

Mrs. Poland was silent. She was scolding me as she would scold one of her own children whom she dearly loved. There was nothing more to be said by either of us, so we dropped the subject.

Bridge was the game for the evening, and in order to show Mrs. Poland that I was willing to do all in my power to meet her wishes I invited Miss Vail to be my partner. She was very stupid at cards, and when she trumped my tricks, although I said nothing, I could not help looking grave. This she interpreted as condemnation and after finishing a rubber arose and left the table. Mrs. Poland was watching us and as soon as we were alone said to me:

"What did you scold her for?"

"Scold her? I didn't say a word."

"But you looked it."

I was discouraged. I made no reply.

"You'll never win that girl in the world. You needn't try any more to please me. I give it up."

The next day Mrs. Poland was very cross with me. I asked her if I had offended further. She said that I had not, but Miss Vail was so offended with me that she was intending to cut short her visit.

"That's too bad," I replied. "Not for the world would I consent to remain your guest after having driven a guest of yours from your house. I beg of you tell Miss Vail that it is I who am going. Let her remain."

"Oh tell her yourself. I'm tired of the business."

I invited Miss Vail to go down on the beach with me. We remained there all the morning. When we returned Mrs. Poland asked:

"Which is to go?"

"Neither," I replied. "We're engaged."



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